

KanCare Advisor

This news bulletin is designed to provide updates on KanCare, the new Medicaid program in the State of Kansas. Information is published by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services.

December 19, 2013

Members, do you know about Open Enrollment?

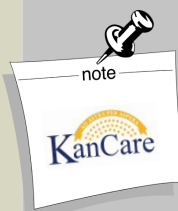
Open enrollment for KanCare is underway. If you joined KanCare in January 2013, your open enrollment for plan year 2014 began this month, with changes going into effect Jan. 1, 2014. Open enrollment packets have been mailed out to these members. For members who joined KanCare after January 2013, your open enrollment packets will be sent to you around the anniversary date of you joining KanCare.

Open enrollment gives you the choice to change your plan if you want. If you choose to keep the same health plan you have now, you do not need to submit an enrollment packet, and you will be automatically re-enrolled in the same plan.

All members will have 60 days to review their open enrollment packet and decide whether or not they want to stay in their plan or change to a different plan. For more information about Open Enrollment, please visit www.kancare.ks.gov.



Quarterly Report:



KanCare's third quarter report was submitted to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and is available at the following link: <http://www.kancare.ks.gov/reports.htm>. In a payment comparison, KanCare is currently paying out 99% of what Medicaid paid to providers in 2012.

Advisory Council Meeting

The KanCare Advisory Council met Dec. 18, 2013, in the Old Supreme Court Room in the State Capital Building. Members received details about the Open Enrollment period, the requested changes under the Section 1115 waiver amendment and Health Homes. Representatives from the three KanCare health plans made presentations, and KDADS Secretary Shawn Sullivan described the upcoming plan for inclusion of I/DD waiver services in managed care. KDHE and KDADS appreciate the Advisory Council members for their service to the State of Kansas in this important role. The next meeting is set for March 26, 2014, at 2 p.m. in Curtis State Office Building, Room 530. http://www.kancare.ks.gov/advisory_council.htm

Familiar with Health Homes?

Health Home is a new Medicaid option scheduled to launch in July 2014. A Health Home is not a building, a nursing home or a doctor's office. This option will be available for KanCare members to help provide coordination of physical and behavioral health care with long term services and supports for people with chronic conditions. It's a comprehensive and intense method of care coordination that includes links to community and social supports. KDHE and KDADS are jointly working on this initiative, along with a great group of external stakeholders extremely involved in the planning process. The Health Homes team even has its own newsletter, the Health Homes Herald. For more info: kancare.ks.gov/health_home.htm

Annual MCO Site Reviews

The first of what will be an annual review of the KanCare managed care organizations' performance is under way. Staff from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services and the state's External Quality Review Organization (EQRO) are joining to conduct these reviews. Project team staff from all three entities have been meeting since July to identify focus areas, develop documentation requests and review tools, and prepare for the onsite component of this first broad-scale review. The onsite component of the review involves three days at each of the MCO locations, with three review tracks running concurrently (federal regulations, state contract requirements, and financial practice). The review process will conclude in February, with reports of findings to follow.



Provider Experience Survey

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment launched a KanCare provider experience survey on Dec. 6. It is the first in a series of surveys that will provide us with feedback from a wide range of providers. The survey is intended for the provider agency's CEO, COO, CFO or other senior leader who is able to respond with the most comprehensive perspective of the organization. If you are the appropriate provider representative to take this survey, please use the link here:

<http://www.kancaresupport.org/survey>



I/DD Friends and Family Tour

"Let's Talk!" was the theme of the recent I/DD Friends and Family Tour. With stops in Garden City, Dodge City, Newton, Winfield, Great Bend, Hays, Overland Park and Lawrence between Dec. 2 and Dec. 5, there were many miles traveled and many conversations started to help prepare friends, family, guardians and individuals served by the I/DD waiver for its implementation into KanCare on Jan. 1, 2014. The meetings were held both at Community Developmental Disability Organization (CDDO) facilities and community center locations with the focus on providing an informal atmosphere to ask and answer questions. The Friends and Family Workgroup had its monthly meeting in Topeka Dec. 4 and discussed opportunities to improve and encourage more dialog. Questions or comments? Contact Amy Sims-Shonka, ombudsman assistant, amy.simsshonka@kdads.ks.com or call Toll Free at 855-643-8180.

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